Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

It is time to bring back a federally required doctrine of equal time for political views and balanced reporting. Also, I understand from news reports and editorials that many of the owners and executives of Sinclair Broadcasting have contributed generously to the Republican Party and its candidates. The FCC should not allow the use of public airwaves to preempt regular broadcasting with what I consider Republican propaganda.

In addition to contacting the FCC, I have contacted Nebraska Senators Hagel and Nelson as well. Thank you.

Debbie Lewis